that the Social Security Board was studying the possibility of adding a national health insurance project as a part of its program. Comprehensive health insurance, of course, would be borne by the taxpayers and it is estimated as likely to cost 5 per cent of pay rolls. The Social Security Board has authority to make research studies on "related subjects" and health insurance is held to be one of these.

ROCKEFELLER AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH

Many public health workers of California have been given scholarships from the Rockefeller bounty and through the educational advantages made available by this source the health of Californians, in general, has been enhanced greatly. It would seem most fitting, therefore, to reproduce the following appreciation of John D. Rockefeller, which appeared in the London *Lancet* of May 29, 1937:

"With the death of John D. Rockefeller at the great age of nearly ninety-eight years an almost legendary figure has stepped quietly, almost imperceptibly, from the present into the past. The day will come when his life and endeavor will be written at full length, for almost alone among the world's rich men he has found a lasting place in the human imagination. There was something heroic in his mould, something dramatic in the denouement of his life which made him the very sign and epitome of his times and the last and almost tragic representative man of an age of individualism which has perhaps passed forever. The plot of his life is briefly told. Unbounded and self-sufficing ambition, machine-like industry and efficiency, riches amassed unemotionally and perhaps ruthlessly until they surpassed the count of man. In the plenitude of power and wealth came the conviction born of a deep puritanism that what had been wrenched without mercy from the world must be returned to it with interest; the machinery of his great wealth was put in reverse and the redistribution was carried out with the same genius and unrelenting thorougness which went to its amassing.

"To medicine John D. Rockefeller has been the greatest monetary benefactor of all time, not only as measured by the vast sums he expended, but also by the skill and forethought with which the money was invested. He was fortunate in his choice of medical advisers, or perhaps it would be fairer to say he was incomparably skillful in choosing them. As his great wealth had been acquired with a vision which went far beyond the limits of his own country, so it was spent without consideration for national boundaries. In this country alone the Rockefeller benefactions have been of unexampled magnitude and, as we look back on them, we are glad to think that it would be hard to suggest how they could have been made to better advantage. Thus the schools of London, Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, and Bristol were given princely sums for important and overdue schemes of expansion. In London outstanding gifts were those to University College and its hospital, to the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and toward the building of the new university premises in Bloomsbury. Many other universities and medical schools throughout both the British Empire and the world have likewise benefited according to their needs and deserts. In the United States itself there can be few medical schools or research institutions which are not indebted to the Foundation which for some ten years or so after the war seemed never to fail to meet every really deserving demand. The central monument of the Foundation is, of course, the Rockefeller Institute in New York. In this institute medical research, in its widest sense, was given a home and endowment on a scale paralleled by no other medical research institution in existence. The finest medical brains in the world were there attracted by the facilities for research. In this institute were conducted the work of Flexner on meningitis, of Cecil, Dochez, and Avery on pneumonia, the brilliant researches of Peyton Rous on transmissible tumors, Noguchi's spectacular, if sometimes misleading, investigations on syphilis, yellow fever, and bartonella infection. Here, too, Karl Landsteiner built up the great school of immunological chemistry the fruit of which is only beginning to be fully borne; while even wider in interest and passing far beyond the confines of medicine was the work of Armand Carrel on tissue culture, and of Jacques Loeb on the dynamics of living matter. Not the least inspired of the views of the Rockefeller Foundation was the realization that there are no real boundaries to scientific knowledge and that the problem of medical education and research is not so much one of medical education as such, but of education in general. Thus, as the Foundation grew in experience and wisdom it became less purely medical in its activities, and in England we profited by this outlook in the benefactions to libraries and to such institutions as the London School of Economics. Relatively few of the great sums distributed by the Foundation took the form of permanent endowments. It was considered sufficient to plant the sapling and leave it to others to make the salutary effort by tending it and bringing it to fruition; but the Foundation never went by hard-and-fast rules, and where endowment was necessary and advisable it was arranged in the most elastic way possible. No institution and no individual who benefited from the Foundation ever felt the dead hand of formal charity. It is this tact and true understanding of the very spirit of learning and research which has earned the gratitude of the medical profession and which has been a model to countless benefactors who have followed the example of the great American philanthropist. To the medical profession J. D. Rockefeller will always be something more than the weazened and eccentric old gentleman who gave new dimes to passing children—something more, too, than the richest man in the world, whose name became as proverbial as Croesus. For the medical world, perhaps alone, is in the position to realize the grandeur of the drama of restitution which was played out in his life. In the midst of the murkiness and cruelty of the arena of nineteenth century commercialism, where he stood a peerless victor, he saw a vision and of that vision was born an ideal."

INFANTILE PARALYSIS—ZINC SULPHATE NASAL SPRAY

At Toronto, Ontario, on September 2, it was announced that five thousand Ontario children under fourteen were being treated this week, in a vast clinical test, with the Peet zinc sulphate nasal spray—the most hopeful preventive measure yet discovered in the war against infantile paralysis. Fighting an outbreak which has made increasing inroads since June, and which is not expected to reach its peak until the third week in September, Ontario hospitals and clinics are giving this preventive treatment free to children—at the rate of one thousand a day.

Never tested conclusively since its recent development by Dr. Max Minor Peet of the University of Michigan, the zinc sulphate spray's value as a preventive measure will be known soon as a result of the Ontario experiment.

"Ontario's experiment with five thousand cases will be of the utmost importance to medical science," Dr. Thomas M. Rivers, Director of the Rockefeller Institute Hospital of New York, told a Toronto newspaper over long-distance telephone.

"With animals the Peet spray works beautifully, but with children I can give no real opinion. There have been tests on individual cases, but for scientific purposes we need the results of hundreds of cases to have anything conclusive. We shall all be watching Ontario's results with the greatest interest."

Doctor Rivers said a picric acid spray, which has shown itself much inferior to the Peet spray in tests with animals, had been used last summer on thousands of children in Alabama, and showed some result, despite administration, in most cases, by insufficiently instructed physicians.

"The spray is certainly the most hopeful treatment so far," he declared.

Drs. Paul and John Rauch, staff members of the Hagmeier Clinic at Preston Springs, one of the Ontario institutions offering the free nasal spray treatment to children, declare that the spray, while not yet definitely proved a success in prevention of infantile paralysis, is "the only thing yet found of value as a preventive, and should be made a public health measure." Both have made a special study of the spray at Chicago.

Eight hundred children have been treated in five days at Hagmeier alone, Dr. Paul Hauch reports. The method of administering the spray, although requiring special training and instruction, is a simple one. Older children are treated with a nasal speculum and an atomizer. Younger